What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, comprising:

preventing a first resource consumer from starting new activity on the computer system; and

allowing a second resource consumer to continue already-running activity on the computer system.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein an active session limit applicable to the resource consumer exists, and wherein preventing a first resource consumer from starting new activity comprises setting the active session limit applicable to that resource consumer to zero.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first resource consumer belongs to a first group of resource consumers, further comprising a second group of resource consumers, wherein the first group of resource consumers is prevented from starting new activity while the second group of resource consumers is allowed to start new activity.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the prevented activity is queued.

5. A method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, the computer system having a first configurable value associated with a first resource consumer group, the first resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the first configurable value being adapted to define a first number of active sessions the first resource consumer group is allowed to have running on the computer system, comprising:

configuring the first configurable value to a quiescence value, the quiescence value being adapted to limit the number of newly active sessions for the first resource consumer group to zero, wherein all currently active

sessions are allowed to continue, but no new sessions are allowed to become active.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the computer system further comprises a second configurable value associated with a second resource consumer group, the second resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the second configurable value being adapted to define a second number of active sessions the second resource consumer group is allowed to have running in the computer system, further comprising:

configuring the second configurable value to a value adapted to allow one or more active sessions from the second resource consumer group to be run while the first configurable value is set to the quiescence value.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein sessions prevented from becoming active are queued.

8. A method for quiescing a computer system, the computer system operating according to a first resource plan, comprising:

replacing the first resource plan with a second resource plan, the second resource plan comprising a first resource consumer group and a second resource consumer group, the second resource plan being adapted to prevent the first resource consumer group from starting new activity on the computer system while allowing the second resource consumer group to start new activity on the computer system.

9. A computer program product that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium comprising a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, the method comprising:

preventing a first resource consumer from starting new activity on the computer system; and

allowing a second resource consumer to continue already-running activity on the computer system.

10. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein an active session limit applicable to the resource consumer exists, and wherein preventing a first resource consumer from starting new activity comprises setting the active session limit applicable to that resource consumer to zero.

11. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the first resource consumer belongs to a first group of resource consumers, further comprising a second group of resource consumers, wherein the first group of resource consumers is prevented from starting new activity while the second group of resource consumers is allowed to start new activity.

12. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the prevented activity is queued.

13. A computer program product that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium comprising a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, the computer system having a first configurable value associated with a first resource consumer group, the first resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the first configurable value being adapted to define a first number of active sessions the first resource consumer group is allowed to have running on the computer system, the method comprising:

configuring the first configurable value to a quiescence value, the quiescence value being adapted to limit the number of newly active sessions for the first resource consumer group to zero, wherein all currently active sessions are allowed to continue, but no new sessions are allowed to become active.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the computer system further comprises a second configurable value associated with a second resource consumer group, the second resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the second configurable value being adapted to define a second number of active sessions the second resource consumer group is allowed to have running in the computer system, further comprising:

configuring the second configurable value to a value adapted to allow one or more active sessions from the second resource consumer group to be run, while the first configurable value is set to the quiescence value.

15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein sessions prevented from becoming active are queued.

16. A computer program product that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium comprising a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for quiescing a computer system, the computer system operating according to a first resource plan, the method comprising:

replacing the first resource plan with a second resource plan, the second resource plan comprising a first resource consumer group and a second resource consumer group, the second resource plan being adapted to prevent the first resource consumer group from starting new activity on the computer system while allowing the second resource consumer group to start new activity on the computer system.

17. A system for quiescing user activity in a computer system, comprising:

a resource plan, the resource plan identifying a first resource consumer and a second resource consumer, among which a computer system resource is to be allocated and specifying an allocation of the resource among the first resource consumer and the second resource consumer; and

a scheduler for allocating the resource among the first resource consumer and the second resource consumer according to the resource plan;

wherein the scheduler prevents the first resource consumer from starting new activity on the computer system and allows the second resource consumer to continue already-running activity on the computer system.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein an active session limit applicable to the resource consumer exists, and wherein the scheduler prevents a first resource consumer from starting new activity by setting the active session limit applicable to that resource consumer to zero.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the first resource consumer belongs to a first group of resource consumers, further comprising a second group of resource consumers, wherein the scheduler prevents the first group of resource consumers from starting new activity while the second group of resource consumers is allowed to start new activity.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the prevented activity is queued.

21. A system of quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, , comprising:

a resource plan, the resource plan identifying a first resource consumer group, to which a computer system resource is to be allocated and specifying an allocation of the resource to the first resource consumer group, the resource plan having a first configurable value associated with the first resource consumer group, the first resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the first configurable value being adapted to define a first number of active sessions the first resource consumer group is allowed to have running on the computer system; and

a scheduler for allocating the resource to the first resource consumer group according to the resource plan;

wherein the first configurable value is configured to a quiescence value, the quiescence value being adapted to limit the number of newly active sessions for the first resource consumer group to zero, wherein all currently active sessions are allowed to continue, but no new sessions are allowed to become active.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system further comprises a second configurable value associated with a second resource consumer group, the second resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the second configurable value being adapted to define a second number of active sessions that the second resource consumer group is allowed to have running in the computer system, wherein the second configurable value is configured to a value adapted to allow one or more active sessions from the second resource consumer group to be run, while the first configurable value is set to the quiescence value.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein sessions prevented from becoming active are queued.

24. A system for quiescing a computer system, comprising:

a resource plan, the resource plan comprising a first resource consumer group and a second resource consumer group, the resource plan being adapted to prevent the first resource consumer group from starting new activity on the computer system while allowing the second resource consumer group to start new activity on the computer system; and

a scheduler for allocating the resource to the first resource consumer group and the second resource consumer group, as directed by the resource plan.